

BEING A COMMUNIQUE DRAFTED AT THE END OF THE NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON **SUSTAINABILITY OF NIGERIAN ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**, HELD AT FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, OWERRI, FROM 26 – 28 MAY, 2015.

PREAMBLE

The **SDSN-Nigeria** held a workshop in collaboration with FUTO, from 26th to 28th of May, 2015. The theme of the workshop was Sustainability of Nigerian Environment for Sustainable Development. Participants were drawn from Universities in Nigeria. Several papers were presented reflecting various aspects of the theme by resource persons. The workshop was preceded by a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor of FUTO, who later declared the workshop open. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. M.O.E. Iwuala

OBSERVATIONS

Participants observed the failure of governments to involve universities and other knowledge centres in the implementation of the MDGs. This led to the failure to fully achieve the MDGs. The meeting further observed the need to:

1. recognise the centrality of the environment in sustainable development
2. domesticate the principles of sustainability and sustainable development in individual lifestyles and the universities
3. generate knowledge relevant to solving local problems through research
4. build strong advocacy coalitions with active civil society organizations and other stakeholders for sustainable development
5. embark on projects aimed at addressing identified local sustainable development challenges

6. engender partnership among government, universities, research institutes and other knowledge centres in implementing the post 2015 development agenda

RECOMMENDATIONS

The meeting therefore, recommends as follows:

1. integration of environmental considerations in all development initiatives
2. the imperative of the involvement of universities in the implementation of the ensuing post 2015 development agenda (SDGs)
3. building on available and locally contextualized knowledge within enhanced institutional frameworks at the local, national, regional and global levels
4. Promote strong advocacy coalitions with active civil society organizations and other stakeholders
5. The incoming government must take seriously, the need for partnership with universities, research institutes and other knowledge centres in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

CONCLUSION

The NSDSN emphasizes its capability, capacity and availability to partner with the incoming government to implement and accomplish the SDGs. This commitment is made as a consortium of Nigerian universities.

Finally, the NSDSN is grateful to the Management and staff of Federal University of Technology, Owerri for hosting this important workshop and the meeting of the Board of the Network.